AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] In an NMR spectrometer, for example, it is always necessary to dissolve a sample under investigation in a deuterated solvent (e.g., deuterated chloroform, deuterated acetone, or deuterated water) or in a conventional protonated solvent containing more than a given amount (10 %) of a deuterated solvent. One reason for this is that the ~~dissolution~~ deuteration is necessary for the NMR lock that stabilizes the instrument. Another reason is to prevent appearance of excessively strong NMR signals due to protonated (non-deutereated) solvent, such as chloroform, acetone, or H_2O; otherwise, the strong signals would overlap a signal of interest or the detection sensitivity would deteriorate. However, in high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or other similar technique, a protonated solvent is generally used as a mobile phase and so it is not easy to replace the protonated solvent by a deuterated solvent. Consequently, it is necessary that the protonated solvent is evaporated off, the sample is dried and solidified, and then is redissolved in a deuterated solvent. In the past, all of these sample pretreatment steps have been done by a human. That is, cumbersome manual operations have been performed.